IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-12 (Canceled)

13. (New) A fibrocyte-based vaccine formulation comprising isolated fibrocytes having an antigenic component associated therewith, wherein the antigenic component is a non-tumor antigen selected from the group consisting of pulsed antigen protein, peptide, lipid, carbohydrate or a synthetic antigen thereof, or a gene expressing specific non-tumor antigenic determinant(s) wherein said determinant(s) are proteins or peptides, non-tumor cells and membrane fragments from non-tumor cells, wherein the fibrocyte-based vaccine formulation displays at least one non-tumor antigen of the antigenic component, with the proviso that when the antigenic component is a non-tumor cell or membrane fragments from non-tumor cells the antigenic component is fused with the isolated fibrocytes to form a fused cell that is the fibrocyte-based vaccine formulation.

14. (New) The fibrocyte-based therapeutic formulation of Claim 13, wherein the fusion process occurs *ex vivo* and the fibrocyte-based therapeutic formulation is administered *in vivo.*

15. (New) A method for establishing an immune response against a specific non-tumor antigen by administering the fibrocyte-based therapeutic formulation of Claim 12.

16. (New) The method of Claim 15, wherein the fibrocyte-based vaccine is produced by a process comprising pulsing fibrocytes in culture with a non-tumor antigen peptide or protein, or transfecting fibrocytes with a gene encoding specific non-tumor antigenic determinant(s) wherein said determinant(s) are peptides or proteins, or by fusing non-tumor cells or membrane fragments thereof with fibrocytes.

17. (New) The fibrocyte-based therapeutic formulation of Claim 13, wherein the antigenic component is viral.

18. (New) The fibrocyte-based therapeutic formulation of Claim 13, wherein the antigenic component is bacterial.

19. (New) The fibrocyte-based therapeutic formulation of Claim 13, wherein the antigenic component is fungal.

20. (New) The fibrocyte-based therapeutic formulation of Claim 13, wherein the antigenic component is parasitic.

21. (New) The method for establishing an immune response according to Claim 15, wherein the antigenic component is viral.

22. (New) The method for establishing an immune response according to Claim 15, wherein the antigenic component is bacterial.

23. (New) The method for establishing an immune response according to Claim 15, wherein the antigenic component is fungal.

24. (New) The method for establishing an immune response according to Claim 15, wherein the antigenic component is parasitic.